

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07332 01 OF 02 141833Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-20 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 /104 W  
-----017218 141840Z /43

R 141818Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6032  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 07332

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, EEC  
SUBJ: ETUC CRITICIZES EMPLOYERS' GROUP FOR "DESTRUCTIVE  
ATTITUDE"

REF: BRUSSELS 6949

1. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION  
CONFEDERATION (ETUC), MEETING IN BRUSSELS APRIL 13-14,  
DECLARED ITSELF "SATISFIED" WITH WORKER RESPONSE TO ITS  
CALL FOR A "WORKER ACTION DAY" APRIL 5. "ALL THE  
AFFILIATED CONFEDERATIONS MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS TO  
BRING THE ETUC PROPOSALS AND DEMANDS FOR THE REESTABLISH-  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 07332 01 OF 02 141833Z

MENT OF FULL EMPLOYMENT TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF WORKING  
PEOPLE AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL," THE ETUC DECLARED.

2. STRIKES, MASS RALLIES, PLANT MEETINGS, AND OTHER  
DEMONSTRATIONS "SHOWED THAT THESE PROPOSALS AND DEMANDS ARE  
STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE WORKERS IN THE COUNTRIES  
CONCERNED," THE ETUC STATEMENT SAID, AND ADDED THAT THE

REACTION FROM THE "POLITICAL AUTHORITIES" OF EUROPE--THE LEADERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION, AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE--TO THE ETUC'S DEMARCHES HAD ALSO BEEN POSITIVE.

3. "THE EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS WERE THE ONLY BODIES WHICH DID NOT CHANGE THEIR EXTREMELY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE," THE ETUC STATEMENT SAID. AN ETUC DELEGATION WAS "WELL RECEIVED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL," AND THE TWO SIDES DID "HOLD A DIALOGUE," THE ETUC SAID, BUT THEN CRITICIZED ONE LARGE GROUP OF EMPLOYERS, THE UNION OF INDUSTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (UNICE), WHICH IS THE ETUC'S MOST IMPORTANT COUNTERPART ON THE EMPLOYER SIDE.

4. WHAT IRRITATED THE ETUC WAS THAT UNICE ON APRIL 5--"AT THE VERY SAME MOMENT" AS WORKER ACTION DAY--RELEASED A UNICE MEMO TITLED A "MEMORANDUM TO POLITICAL CIRCLES" WHICH ETUC DESCRIBED AS A "VERY NEGATIVE REACTION" TO ETUC PROPOSALS. THE ETUC CHARACTERIZED THE DOCUMENT AS "CONSERVATIVE AND DOGMATIC," AND SUMMARIZED ITS COMMENTS AS AN ARGUMENT TO INCREASE PROFITS AND TO REDUCE WAGE COSTS AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURES, INCLUDING SOCIAL COSTS.

5. "IN VIEW OF WHAT CAN BE TERMED THE DESTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE OF THE EMPLOYER ASSOCIATIONS, THE EXECUTIVE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 07332 01 OF 02 141833Z

COMMITTEE OF THE ETUC CONSIDERS IT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO STEP UP THE PRESSURE ON THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, SO THAT THEY DO NOT USE THE EMPLOYER POSITION AS A PRETEXT FOR FOSTERING THEIR INERTIA," THE ETUC SAID.

6. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 14 WHERE THIS ETUC STATEMENT WAS RELEASED, THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS ABOUT THE ETUC'S SHARP CRITICISM OF EMPLOYERS. IN COMMENTS ON THE SIDELINES, HOWEVER, AN ETUC OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE ATTACK ON UNICE WAS THE SHARPEST IN THE ETUC'S FIVE-YEAR HISTORY.

7. A SEPARATE ETUC STATEMENT APRIL 14 REVIEWED THE RESULTS OF THE APRIL 7-8 EUROPEAN COUNCIL (HEADS OF GOVERNMENT) MEETING IN COPENHAGEN. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, IN THE ETUC VIEW, WAS THAT THE COUNCIL HAD GIVEN "PRACTICALLY NO INDICATIONS" OF EXACTLY HOW IT PLANS TO IMPLEMENT ITS ANNOUNCED POLICY OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL GAVE SOME "SIGNS OF A CERTAIN DETERMINATION TO TAKE ACTION," THE ETUC ADMITTED. THREE SUCH SIGNS CITED BY THE ETUC:

--THE INTENTION TO SET UP A "EUROPEAN MONETARY STABILITY ZONE" BY EXPANDING THE UTILIZATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNIT OF ACCOUNT.

--THE INSTRUCTION TO THE NEXT EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL TO PREPARE ACTIVELY FOR THE NEXT EUROPEAN COUNCIL, WHICH WILL MEET JUST PRIOR TO THE WORLD ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN JULY IN BONN.

--THE SETTING OF A NEW ECONOMIC GROWTH TARGET (4.5 PER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07332 02 OF 02 141835Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-20 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 /104 W

-----017265 141840Z /43

R 141818Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6033

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 07332

8. HEINZ OSKAR VETTER, ETUC PRESIDENT WHO PRESIDED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, ALSO ANNOUNCED TWO OTHER ITEMS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

A. GUNTER KOPKE, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE 6.7-MILLION MEMBER EUROPEAN METALWORKERS FEDERATION, HAS BEEN APPROVED AS DIRECTOR OF THE NEW EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE, AN ETUC-LINKED LABOR RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

CENTER TO BE LOCATED IN BRUSSELS (REFTEL).

B. THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED A  
STATEMENT ON REFORM OF THE EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 07332 02 OF 02 141835Z

(ESC). IN THE NEW ESC TAKING OFFICE IN SEPTEMBER 1978,  
IT IS "INDISPENSABLE THAT THE NUMBER OF WORKER REPRESENTATIVES ARE EQUAL TO THOSE REPRESENTING EMPLOYERS," THE ETUC SAID, AND CALLED UPON NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO KEEP THIS IN MIND IN CHOOSING THEIR NEXT NATIONAL DELEGATIONS TO THE ESC. HINTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS, HOLIDAYS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BRUSSE07332  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780161-0330  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BRUSSELS USEEC  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780456/aaaabvcw.tel  
**Line Count:** 186  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** bfa601b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 BRUSSELS 6949  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2965561  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ETUC CRITICIZES EMPLOYERS' GROUP FOR "DESTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE"  
**TAGS:** ELAB, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/bfa601b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014